

years. It was my hope to join the congregation at the dedication and a daylong jubilee celebration this coming Saturday.

Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church is not only the oldest church on Hilton Head Island, but also the oldest A.M.E. church in the State of South Carolina. Queen Chapel represents the rich Gullah-Geechee cultural history and religious heritage that is characteristic of the coastal Sea Islands.

Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church was founded when Minister Richard Harvey Cain—who served in this body for four years—Reverend James A. Johnson, and Reverend James Handy arrived on Hilton Head Island in the area called Cherry Hill. As they waited for a violent storm to pass over, they decided to have church services with prayer and singing under a large, oak tree. This was to be an historic event because it was where the African Methodist Episcopal religion began in the state of South Carolina.

The property where Queen Chapel now sits was purchased from W.D. Brown in 1886, and the first church was built on September 11, 1892. The pastor of Queen Chapel during that era was Reverend R.C. Williams, and the presiding elder was Reverend P.W. Jefferson. Some of the Church's early members include Abraham Grant; Ben Singleton, Sr.; Jake Green; Ceasar Johnson; Paul Edwards; Ed Green; Perry Ward; Sarah Grant; Joe Jones; Ben Jones; Harry Burke; John Burke; John Henry Perry; Nellie Perry; Fannie Burke; Christina Williams; Martha Goff; Sarah Singleton; Mary Cannick; Maria Green; Blind Joe Ellis; Backus Johnson; Julia Reed; Lula Jones; Chamberlin Robinson; Mae Bell Simmons; and Ida Singleton. Later members were Charlie Singleton; Willie Singleton; Mae Bell Aiken; Beulah Kellerson; Raymond Perry; James Grant, Sr.; Viola Murray; Marion Aiken, Sr.; William Kellerson; William Brown, Sr.; Abraham Johnson; John Patterson; and many others whose relatives are still members of the congregation today.

The present church was built in 1954, with the Reverend S.C. Washington serving as pastor, the Reverend F.M. Reid as Bishop, and the Reverend J.C. James as presiding elder. The officers credited with building the

new church were James Grant, Sr.; Solomon Grant, Sr.; John Patterson; Marion Aiken, Sr.; William Kellerson; Abraham Johnson; and Leander Cannick, Sr., just to name a few.

The new facilities of this prominent church on Hilton Head Island will not only serve the Queen Chapel congregation, but will also serve the entire community with considerations for amenities such as day care and after school tutoring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church which is raising another sanctuary after 136 years on the same hallowed grounds. I wish the congregation and surrounding community Good Luck and God-speed on this special occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 19TH ANNUAL FREMONT FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 19th Annual Fremont Festival of the Arts sponsored by the Fremont Chamber of Commerce.

The two-day Festival, to be held on July 27 and 28, 2002, is expected to attract over 450,000 attendees and has become a model of success for the modern festival. This single event provides some \$400,000 in contributions to non-profits for the betterment of communities in Fremont, California.

Over 800 artists, 40 culinary selections and 20 musical groups will be featured at the Festival. Three thousand volunteers give willingly of their time to contribute to the Festival's success.

It takes generous and concerned individuals, such as the volunteers, to reach out and make a difference, ensuring promise and opportunity for this and future generations. It also takes the support of business sponsors and patrons to ensure the success of the Festival.

The Festival typifies the spirit of community service, which is alive and thriving in Fremont.

I am proud to salute the efforts of this year's Festival Chairman, David M. O'Hara and Fremont Chamber of Commerce CEO Cindy Bonilor, the organizers, the volunteers, the sponsors and the patrons of the Fremont Festival of the Arts for their generous and inspiring efforts to ensure continued success.

UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a co-sponsor and in support of this important bill.

Despite predictions for an increase in jobs requiring technical skills over the next decade, the number of students graduating with degrees in the sciences has decreased during the last decade.

This pattern has had serious ramifications for our nation's economic growth.

The H1-B visa increase we passed two years ago was a reflection of the failure of our educational system to produce students with strong proficiency in math, science and engineering . . . this bill addresses this failure.

The Tech Talent Bill is innovative legislation that will help reverse current trends by rewarding colleges and universities for taking steps to increase the numbers of science and engineering majors.

A relatively small investment made through the grants authorized in this bill will seed U.S. companies with the employees they need to remain competitive in a global marketplace.

By providing these financial incentives, we will not only be strengthening our own workforce but also lessening our dependence on foreign experts who may be here on H1-B visas.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and look forward to its swift passage.